



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2025 UNTARGETED EVENTING TEAM OPPORTUNITIES**  
**December 17, 2024 - v.1**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for selection to the relevant Nations Cup Team (“Team”):
  - 1.1.1. The Athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with the FEI General Regulations at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the applicable Nations Cup (“Event”). The Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.
  
- 1.2. Minimum International Federation (FEI) standards for participation:
  - 1.2.1. Athlete/Horse combinations must meet minimum Federation Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) requirements for the relevant Event per Articles 520 and 521 of the current FEI Eventing Regulations.
  - 1.2.2. The Athlete/Horse combination must achieve the Additional or Extra Qualifications for the relevant Event per Article 516 of the current FEI Eventing Regulations. These Qualifications are outlined in the relevant Event’s published FEI Schedule.
  - 1.2.3. The Athlete and Horse must comply with the FEI Rules and Regulations for the Event.
  
- 1.3. Other requirements:
  - 1.3.1. The Athlete must be an Active Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing from the time of the FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry, whichever occurs earlier, and through the conclusion of the Event.
  - 1.3.2. The Horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 and in good standing from the time of the FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry, whichever occurs earlier, and through the conclusion of the Event.
  - 1.3.3. At least one individual Owner or a designated representative of a syndicate of U.S. applicant Horses must be an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing from the time of the FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry, whichever occurs earlier, and through the conclusion of the Event.
  - 1.3.4. Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must complete an online Application with the application fee within their USEF Athlete Dashboard before the deadline stated within the memo announcing the opening of the application period, and published on the USEF website. Each Athlete must certify, by signing the Application, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, the USEF Code of Conduct, the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USEF Safe Sport Policy, including

the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy, and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy.

- 1.3.5. Individual Owners listed on the FEI Passport of the applicant Horse(s) named to the FEI Definite Entry must sign the Horse Participation Consent Agreement by the FEI Definite Entry deadline as published in the FEI Approved Schedule for the Event. An Owner's failure to sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the FEI Definite Entry.
  - 1.3.6. The Owner must certify, by signing the Horse Participation Consent Agreement, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, the USEF Code of Conduct, the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USEF Safe Sport Policy, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy, and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy.
  - 1.3.7. Any Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy and USEF Background Check Policy.
  - 1.3.8. Any Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older as of the conclusion of the Event will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- 1.4. Step-by-step description of the selection process for the Event (include maximum Team size):
- 1.4.1. For each Event, three (3) to four (4) Athlete/Horse combinations, and up to the maximum number of Alternates permitted to be named to the FEI Nominated Entry, will be recommended by the USEF Eventing Development Coach and USEF Eventing Technical Advisor to the USEF Eventing Selectors to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee, which will submit its recommendations for final approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors. Combinations will be selected based on the discretionary selection as outlined below.

If there are more than four Athlete/Horse combinations that meet all requirements of Sections 2.2 and 2.3, the Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations will be ranked at the recommendation of the USEF Eventing Development Coach and USEF Eventing Technical Advisor to the USEF Eventing Selectors to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee, or its designee, which will submit its recommendations for final approval to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors. The ranked order will be the order in which substitutions are processed (see Section 3).

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

- 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: Discretionary selection is utilized to field Teams that best support USEF's commitment to competitive excellence, including its investment in excellence in Athlete pathways and on the Field of Play, prioritizing results; Athletes who apply for a Team willingly submit themselves to this subjective process.
- 2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used: When making their recommendations and approval of the Athlete/Horse combination, the USEF Eventing Selectors, USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designee, the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors will take into consideration the following factors, listed in no particular order:

- The overall performance of the Athlete/Horse combination, with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed. Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete/Horse combination's competition records (see definitions) and/or the EquiRating's High Performance Metrics (see definitions).
- Consistency and trend of performance of the Athlete/Horse combination's complete competition records (see definitions) within the previous 24 months, with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed. Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete/Horse combination's competition records (see definitions) and/or the EquiRating's High Performance Metrics (see definitions).
- Horse Soundness (see definitions).
- Athlete's Fitness (see definitions).
- The prospect of the Athlete/Horse combination to win an Individual medal or contribute to a Team medal at the Event.
- The potential of the Athlete and or Athlete/Horse combination to develop to the CCI5\*-L level, be named to a USEF Eventing Pathway Program, and/or represent the U.S. on future Team(s).

### 2.3. Other Discretionary Criteria Used:

2.3.1. Soundness: Horses that are candidates for Selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process, from the time of application and through the conclusion of the Event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian (and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian) upon the request of the Selectors or Chef d'Equipe and based on the availability of the Team Veterinarian or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian.

Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian or Team Evaluating Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete/Horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of a majority of the Selectors, and the Chef d'Equipe, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

Team Veterinarian Request: Athletes, at their own expense, must make available upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, the previous 24 months' worth of veterinary records of Horses in consideration for selection. In addition, Athletes, at their own expense, will be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for Horses in consideration for selection.

Athletes, at their own expense, must complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the Horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the Athlete, for Horses under consideration for selection.

Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process by recommendation from the Chef d'Equipe, a majority of the Selectors, or the Team Veterinarian.

Exceptions may be granted for emergency situations. The Team Veterinarian must be apprised of any emergency within 24 hours of the treatment.

2.3.2. Medical Request: In the event of illness or injury, Athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by USEF at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the Athlete's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the Athlete from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s), and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the Athlete to be unfit to compete, the Athlete may be removed from the selection process pending approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.4. Name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for making discretionary selection recommendations, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

- USEF Eventing Development Coach
- USEF Eventing Technical Advisor
- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors

*See the USEF website for a complete list of members.*

2.5. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All Athletes involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy.

Any person involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department prior to the FEI Nominated Entry deadline. Additionally, they may be required to recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, Owner, or Coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that an Athlete has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No Athlete shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES OR HORSES

- 3.1. At any time during the selection process through the conclusion of the Event, USEF has jurisdiction over Athletes. An Athlete or Horse may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:
- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. The Athlete must submit a written letter to Christina Vaughn, Director, Eventing Elite Program ([cvaughn@usef.org](mailto:cvaughn@usef.org)).
  - 3.1.2. Athlete injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
  - 3.1.3. Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
  - 3.1.4. Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF SafeSport Policy.
  - 3.1.5. Failure to sign the **Horse Participation Consent Agreement** by the FEI Definite Entry Date.
  - 3.1.6. Failure to complete a background screen in accordance with the current USEF Background Check Policy.
  - 3.1.7. Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. If an Athlete and/or Owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the Horse may be removed.
  - 3.1.8. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe, from the time of Selection through the conclusion of the Event.
  - 3.1.9. Failure to provide a report of all veterinary treatments administered, if requested by the Team Veterinarian.
  - 3.1.10. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
  - 3.1.11. Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies, or procedures regarding Athletes and Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
  - 3.1.12. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these procedures.
  - 3.1.13. Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best-qualified Team for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
  - 3.1.14. Failure to comply with reasonable requests, as determined by the Director of FEI Sport and Managing Director of Eventing, from the USEF Eventing Department regarding logistical information and deadlines.
  - 3.1.15. Loss of form or failure to show readiness in or out of competition, as determined by the majority decision of the Selectors and with the approval of the Chef d'Equipe.
  - 3.1.16. The behavior of the Athlete and people associated with the Athlete (including, without limitation, accredited Owners, Coaches, and Grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive Team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a Team Medal.

An Athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII.

### 4. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES & HORSES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) and Horse(s) should a vacancy occur through the Last Date of Substitutions (see definitions):

After a Team and Alternates have been named, substitutions, if they occur, will be filled by an Athlete/Horse combination that is named to the Alternate Athlete/Horse combination list.

Substitutions may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the majority of Selectors, for reasons set forth in Section 3, and subject to approval by the Director of FEI Sport. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors and Team Veterinarian, will evaluate the Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations and may recommend that a replacement be made.

If a selected Athlete/Horse combination withdraws and all the remaining applicant Athletes have declined, an additional Athlete/Horse combination that did not submit an online Application in accordance with these procedures may be recommended by the Chef d'Equipe and a majority of the Selectors to fill a Team position.

The method used for selection will be the criteria as outlined in Section 2. The Horse and Athlete must meet the requirements set forth in Section 1, except for submitting and signing the Application, as outlined in sections 1.2 and 1.3 of these Procedures.

Any Horse replacements for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian (and member(s) of the Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian).

**5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, and data from the selection process for six months past the conclusion of the relevant Event.

**6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and/or Horse Owner during the application process or following selection to the Event:

- Application
- USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement
- USEF Code of Conduct
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification

**7. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS** - Athletes are required to read and requested to sign the USEF Athlete Agreement.

**8. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

USEF website: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors.

Other: These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

## 9. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USADA, and USEF anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USADA and USEF Rules, as applicable.
- B. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.
  - 1. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Horse arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
    - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
    - b. They will notify the Director of FEI/High Performance Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
    - c. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
    - d. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
  - 2. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.
    - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of FEI/High Performance Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.
    - b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is

legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

c. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

d. USEF General Rule 409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

#### **10. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group were responsible for reviewing these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Eventing Athletes Working Group
- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Performance Working Group
- USEF Eventing Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors

*See the USEF website for a complete listing of members.*

#### **11. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures are available [here](#). Contact information for the USOPC Athlete Ombuds can be found below.

#### **12. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

#### **13. FUNDING DISCLAIMER**

Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event. Athletes are encouraged to refer to the memo distributed for each Nations Cup for information on funding and grant opportunities.

#### **14. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

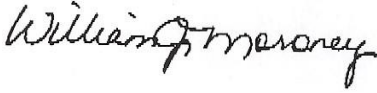

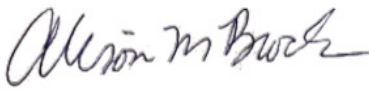
These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected Athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.



**15. ANTI-RETALIATION STATEMENT**

No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USEF or the USOPC shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

**16. USEF SIGNATURES:** I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		12/16/2024
Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		12/16/2024
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Ali Brock		12/16/2024

*\*If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.*

*\*Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.*

*\*If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the USEF must designate an Athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.*

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Christina Vaughn, Director, Eventing Elite Program.

PHONE: +1 (859) 225-6917

EMAIL: [cvaughn@usef.org](mailto:cvaughn@usef.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

## DEFINITIONS:

**ALTERNATE** – A Horse or Athlete/Horse combination that has been named as a potential substitution should there be a removal or withdrawal of a Team Horse or Athlete/Horse combination.

**BOLDNESS** – Whether the Athlete/Horse combination moves forward with confidence, aggression, and vigor demonstrating a positive attitude. When presented with a question (any situation that the Athlete/Horse must answer to successfully negotiate the test, e.g., an obstacle, change of terrain, handling crowds, jumping into water, etc.), whether the Athlete/Horse combination answer the question with the same positive attitude.

**CCI** - Concours Complet d'Equitation.

**CHEF D'EQUIPE** – the Chef d'Equipe is appointed by the USEF to oversee the following for the duration of the Event:

- The general management and fitness of the Horses entered for the Event and the observance of the VRs by Team Veterinarians and other official team members.
- The declaration and the scratching of Athletes and Horses entered for the Competitions at CIOs, FEI Championships, FEI Regional, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and at CIs if appointed.
- The general management, fitness, and behavior of Athletes, especially those under the age of 18. In the case of Athletes under the age of 18, the Chefs d'Equipe are responsible for the behavior of both their teams and individuals for the entire duration of the Event and are obliged to stay with their teams and individuals.
- Notifying the OC which Athletes and Horses have been selected to start in Team Competitions.

### COMPETITION RECORDS –

Records of past competitions may be sourced from the USEF, USEA, FEI or other applicable governing bodies to review an Athlete/Horse combination's scores in the dressage, show jumping and cross-country phases.

### EQUIRATINGS HIGH PERFORMANCE METRICS –

#### ELO Score

Eventing is a complex sport, and it can be difficult to rank horses in order of their overall *quality* and *consistency* using a single metric. The EquiRatings Elo does exactly this. It is a ranking algorithm that is affected *every time* a horse starts the cross-country phase of an event (withdrawals *prior* do not affect the metric). In terms of a single metric for predicting finishing position, this is the best in class. The Elo rewards horses that beat highly rated opponents, thus accounting for the quality of a competition.

#### EquiRatings Expected Values

To assess the expected performance of a Horse in each individual phase of an Eventing competition, the EquiRatings Expected Values are the most effective values. They measure expected performance in dressage, show jumping, cross-country jumping reliability and cross-country speed. These are complex formulae that account for recent trends, the difficulties of past conditions and the likely impact that these have on future performance.

### HPR Score

The HPR score accounts for course difficulty, scoring conditions and the quality of opposition for a single performance.

### Power Average

The power average is the average of the *three best* finishing scores for a given horse or rider over a given dataset. A horse could therefore have a season power average at four and five-star levels.

### Two Phase Average

The two phase average is the average of all dressage *and* show jumping penalties for a horse or rider over a given dataset. The two phase average excludes cross-country penalties as these can skew the statistics if a rider is opting to compete at a slower pace.

### Zone Analysis

Zone Analysis is a simple way to organize *finishing scores* into various scoring zones. This helps to give a visual representation as to whether a horse/rider/nation tends to score in excellent/good/average ranges, or whether they have poor outcomes or even non-completions.

**FEI** – Federation Equestre Internationale, the International Federation for Equestrian Sport.

**FEI DEFINITE ENTRY** - this is the date by which you must submit the final selection of Athletes and Horses that will participate in this Event.

**FEI NOMINATED ENTRY** - this is the date by which you must submit a long list of Athletes and Horses that might participate in this Event.

**FITNESS** – whether the athlete or horse competed at a high level more frequently than is consistent with delivering a peak performance at the event for which selection is being made. Whether the athlete or horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

**GOOD STANDING** – eligible to compete under USEF rules.

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION EXPERIENCE** - a competitive record over the past 3 years that indicates that the Athlete/Horse combination has successfully met the challenges of FEI international events, demonstrating an ability to perform under pressure consistently.

**LAST DATE OF SUBSTITUTIONS** – the last opportunity to make a substitution, as outlined in the FEI Approved Schedule for the Event.

**LOSS OF FORM** - deterioration in performance, demonstrated inability to produce results at the level at which the combination was performing at the time at which they were selected.

**MER** – Minimum Eligibility Requirement.

**REPLACEMENT** – Replacing an Athlete/Horse combination after the USEF has named the Team.

**RIDEABILITY** – whether the Horse exhibits in all three tests - dressage, cross-country, and show jumping - that it responds readily to the aids (directions) of the Athlete because of its training; whether it moves forward, slows down, turns, and jumps any obstacle with composure, obedience, and confidence in itself and the Athlete.

**SPEED** - evidence that in the international record of the Athlete/Horse combination, and in the final trials for the Team, the Athlete/Horse combination shows the ability to complete the Event distances at the speed demanded.

**SOUNDNESS** – a condition in which a horse is able to do the work asked of it without undue stress or risk of injury.

**SUBSTITUTION** – replacing an Athlete/Horse combination after the USEF has named the Team.

**TEAM** – The U.S. Eventing Team.

**USEA** – United States Eventing Association

**USEF** – United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. Governing body of USA Equestrian sport.

**USEF EVENTING SELECTORS** - individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF CEO with recommendation from the USEF Eventing Sport Committee. The Selectors are members of the Eventing community who are knowledgeable and experienced in Eventing at the international level.